THE YEOMEN OF ELIZABETHAN OCKBROOK

Archives of a Derbyshire Parish in The Sixteenth Century

Ockbrook and Borrowash Record Series I

Editor: Marion Johnson

OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH RECORD SERIES I

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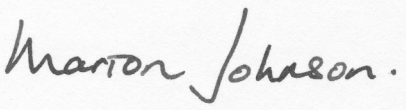

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PREFACE

This is the first book in the Ockbrook and Borrowash Record Series. The series aims to make known the existence of documents which can provide a basis for a detailed study of the history of a parish. The first two books in the series are concerned with the land owners at the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth centuries. This present volume concentrates on the years of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

It was a time when the sovereign's court kept a watchful eye on all property deals and for this reason there is valuable information to be found in the Patent Rolls of the monarchs and in the Inquisitions Post Mortem. Documents from these two sources are quoted here. Further information comes from probate records and conveyances. All these classes of records are important because of the light they shed on land ownership. Each group of documents is introduced by a note on its origin and significance.

Full use of these deeds and other primary sources could provide the basis for a detailed picture of the community set against the background of agricultural and social changes in the English Midlands at this time. Such a study has not been attempted here but perhaps by making these documents more widely known, this booklet will encourage some student of local history, or even a local historical society, to take up the challenge.

THE YEOMEN OF OCKBROOK IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Under the feudal system the sovereign held a great deal of land and much of this land was granted to his subjects who held it as 'tenants in chief'. These tenants could in turn grant or sell their lands to others as their own tenants. It was these under-tenants who were virtually the owners of the land, though they paid rent to the tenant in chief either in money or in services such as work on the lord's land. The tenant in chief was often the lord of the manor and he retained some of the land for his own use, called his desmesne. So it had been on Ockbrook for many generations.

The manor of Ockbrook in the twelfth century was held by Thomas Bardolf and it continued in his family until the fourteenth century and possibly longer. The name Bardolf was still in use in Ockbrook in the sixteenth century when some of the lands changing hands were called Bardolphe Wood or Bardell's Wood. Bardolphe Wood lay to the north of the parish and the deals in the land were indicative of new clearings in the woods beyond the open fields. The name of Bardolf is most likely the origin of the name of Bartlewood which exists today as a farm name.

After the Bardolfs the manor was held by other families until it was taken by Andrew, Lord Windsor, probably in 1532, and his descendants held the manor and lands until 1583. It was the members of the Windsor family who granted or sold several plots of land to yeomen living in the parish. We know that Richard James and William Collumbell bought land from Edward Windsor in 1578. It is likely that they were 'free tenants', paying their rent for the land in money and not in service to the lord of the manor. James and Collumbell in turn sub-let to other farmers, namely Thomas Battell, William Wyndley, Thomas Fowke and Richard Sanderson. The land which the two yeomen James and Collumbell were selling consisted mainly of clearings in the woodland. Battell bought the eight acres of Shevington's Close in Bardolphe Wood. William Wyndley bought nine acres of arable land and pasture called Windley Little Close. Thomas Fowke had pastures of nine acres and Richard Sanderson pastures of twelve acres. In the last three cases the closes bore the purchasers' names and all lay within Bardolphe Wood, suggesting that the buyers had been tenants of the land for long enough to begin clearing the trees.

These clearings in the waste or woods, called assarts, added to the enclosed land for they were additional to the established open fields in which the tenants held their lands in dispersed strips. The new clearings made consolidated land holdings with houses and farm buildings, situated away from the village and the open fields and near to the boundaries of the parish. (map page 35) Farm names begin to appear for the first time. Bartlewood Lodge was the home of the James family and their farm included enclosed pasture in Willimott Wood and enclosed pastures called Foxholes, Meadow Close and The Lound. Little Hall Grange (a grange of the abbey of Dale until its dissolution in 1538), was known as Little Hey Grange from 1562 and was 'then or late in the tenure of Robert Pygyn'. It was later known

as Piggin's Grange, but today that name remains only in Piggin Wood. The farm house was on the boundary of the enclave of Dale Abbey parish which was encircled by Ockbrook. Collumbell's Farm, now known as Columbine Farm, was near the northern boundary of the parish.

This granting of land to yeomen and the clearing of wood land for farming were two significant developments in the changing agriculture in the sixteenth century. They were inter-related movements in that the independent, land-owning yeoman farmer was likely to favour the enclosure of at least some of his land.

The sixteenth century deals in land were the precursors of the major change in 1583. In this year Frederick, Lord Windsor, sold the lordship of the manor and his land in Ockbrook to ten yeoman who lived in the parish. Their names were:-

Edward Adams,
Thomas Adams,
Thomas Battell the elder,
William Collumbell,
Richard Cowper,
Thomas Fowke
William Hibbard
John Piggin
Richard Saunderson
William Wyndley the younger

These ten surnames appear frequently in the records. They were men who had considerable financial and social standing in the parish. Members of the families inter-married. They traded with each other and they sometimes borrowed from each other. As the more affluent members of the community they could exert influence on the organisation of the village and on the farming. These were the men who, as the cultivators of separated holdings, would most likely favour the enclosure of more land. They and their descendents bought and sold land which meant they had to pay their dues to the Exchequer, so their dealings were recorded by the courts at Westminster. They made wills to dispose of their property, and some were able to sign their names on the wills. They employed lawyers to draw up their indentures. Consequently there is a variety of sources to illustrate many aspects of the lives of these people in Ockbrook.

Of the other inhabitants very little is known. They were the 'unfree' tenants who, in return for their landholding, laboured on their landlords' fields. A few of these tenants are named in the documents relating to the yeomen, but not many. Compared with the yeomen their lives were bleak and their possessions few. No documents recorded their lives for posterity.

Documents from the several sources mentioned above, which tell so much about the yeomen, are reproduced in the following pages. Documents from the years before the reign of Elizabeth are included because they show that the yeomen families were well established by her accession in 1558. The later documents take the story up to 1583, a very significant year for Ockbrook.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE PATENT ROLLS

As noted above much land in the middle ages was held by the crown. The land was granted to tenants who were to hold it 'in chief of the crown by knight service'. In other words the rent paid by the tenant was the provision and equipment of a knight to serve the sovereign. By the sixteenth century this system had largely been replaced by rents or other dues. The sovereign's income from the land was now largely through payments of money due when an owner or tenant granted or sold his land. All dealings in land, leasing and transferring occupancy of estates, had to have the permission of the sovereign. This permission was known as a 'Licence to Alienate' and it was granted after the payment of a 'fine'.

The licences to alienate were recorded in the 'Patent Rolls'. They were literally rolls, the sheets of parchment being attached end to end and rolled for storage; and they were 'patent' because they were 'open', addressed to all. They were, of course, written in Latin. The rolls have been 'calendared' (i.e. summarised) in English and the calendars have been printed by the Public Record Office. It is these calendars which are the easily accessible source. For details of the lands and the names of tenants it is necessary to consult the rolls themselves.

The Patent Rolls also recorded grants of land made by the crown, and in the time of Edward VI, Philip and Mary, and Elizabeth, this granted land was often that which had been formerly owned by the monasteries dissolved by Henry VIII. Dale Abbey had once owned considerable lands in Ockbrook and its former lands frequently feature in the Patent Rolls. The grant was often a reward for services to the crown.

In addition to the licences for dealings in lands there are the records of fines for the transfer of the lordship of Ockbrook Manor, for the lordship could be held separately from the land. Other licences were needed when the Rectory changed hands. The Rectory carried the right to collect tythes and in Ockbrook there was a lay rector who had the duty of appointing and paying the vicar.

Many of the licences and grants refer back to earlier patents, naming the previous holder whose lease had expired. The earlier licences quoted suggest that there were owners who lived many miles away from Ockbrook and it can be assumed that some of these sub-let their land.

****

Notes:- 1) The date is expressed as the year of the reign of the monarch, which years were counted from the day of accession. So, for example, since Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne on 17 November 1558, the date of 4 Elizabeth is the fourth year of her reign which ran from the 17 November 1561 to 16 November 1562.

2) Many grants and licences list several pieces of land in other parts of Derbyshire and in other counties. These have been omitted and such omissions are indicated by ---- .

EXTRACTS FROM THE PATENT ROLLS

1540 Michael Stanhope and Ann his wife. Grant in tail male of Michael of the manor of Shelford, Notts. belonging to the late monastery of Shelford, Notts. the woods ---- and rectories of ---- Elvaston and Okebroke, Derby, formerly appropriated to the said monastery ---- and all possessions of the monastery in Shelford ---- Elvaston, Alwaston, Kyrkehalome and Okebroke, Derby ---- to hold by a yearly rent ----

1544 Westminster. 11 February. Francis Poole the King's servant. Grant, in fee, for £489. Os. 10d. of the site etc. of the late Abbey of Dale, Derby, and numerous closes and meadows ---- in Dale parish: a grange called Okebrooke and lands in Elvaston parish, Derby: a coal mine in Stanley ----

1555, 10 April. Lease for 21 years, by advice of the treasurer for a fine of £4, to John Conyers, gentleman, of three messuages in the several tenures of Thomas Woode, Richard Whetley and Richard Lockoo in Okebrok co. Derby, and lands leased with the same and a cottage and parcel of meadow in Spondon, co. Derby, in the tenure of John Dawson, all of which formerly belonged to the monastery of Dale, except woods, wards etc. at yerely rents respectively for the three messuages of 20s., 26s. 8d. and 26s. 8d. and for the cottage and meadow 12s. 8d. Conyers is to keep the premises in repair and to have sufficient timber, housebote, etc.

1556, 24 March. Greenwich. For the sum of £335 paid at the receipt of the Exchequer and in consideration of his service; Grant to John Parrot, knight, of lands in ---- Okebroke, co. Derby ---- [many other lands elsewhere] all for the most part formerly belonging to diverse religious houses, chantries or guilds.
Ockbrook tenant, John Jelicock.

1556, 10 November. Grant to the master and chaplains of the perpetual hospital of the Savoy of the foundation of Henry VII lately restored ---- of lands in Okbroke ----

1559, 21 July. Grant in fee simple, for his service, to George Howard, knight, the Queen's servant, of concealled lands as follows, ---- lands in Okebroke, late of the monastery of Dale, co. Derby ---- lands in Elvaston of yearly value of 12d. given for lamps in Elvaston Church ----

1561, 3 July. Lease for 21 years, by advice of the treasurer, chancellor and under-treasurer of the Exchequer, for a fine of £28 paid at the Exchequer, to John Dawson of Burgh Mylles in Elvaston, co. Derby, a fishery of the water of Darwent and two 'lez buttes' of the mills, late of the monastery of Dale, co. Derby, with

reservations; from Lady Day last; yearly rent £7. On surrender by the said John of an indenture 6 January, 23 Henry VIII, whereby John Staunton, abbot, and the convent of the said monastery leased the premises, then in the tenure of Ralph Dawson, to the said Ralph and Alice his wife for 30 years at the same rent.

1562, 12 January. Grant in fee simple, for £1532. 9s. 4d. paid at the Exchequer to Thomas Gardyner, a receiver there, to Thomas Stanhope of the reversions and rents of the lands comprised in leases for 21 years, with reservations, as follows:-
[items i to iv, vi, viii to x and xii name lands outside Ockbrook]

v. By patent of the said Court, 26 Oct., 5 Edw. VI, to William Lockowe and William Knolles of lands, then in the several tenures of them and others, in Borowashe and Spondon, co. Derby, parcel of the said manor of Spondon and late of the said lord Ryche, from Michaelmas then last at a yearly rent of 82s. 6d. ----
vii. By patent of the Exchequer, 21 Feb., 3 Eliz., to Thomas Mason of lands (a) in Stanley, co. Derby, late of the monastery of Dale, co. Derby, and (b) in Borowashe, parcel of the manor of Spondon and Borowashe and late of Lord Ryche, from Michaelmas then last at yearly rents of (a) 22s. 2d. and (b) 21s. ----
xi. By patent of the said Court, 28 March, 5 Edw. VI, to Blanche Crofton, widow, inter alia of lands in Borowashe, parcel of the said manor of Spondon and late of the said lord Ryche, from Michaelmas then next at a yearly rent of 44s. 8d. ----
xiii. By patent of the said Court, 14 March, 7 Edw. VI, to Nicholas Segnour and William Grene, the king's servants, inter alia of (a) Little Hall Grange in Dale, then or late in the tenure of Robert Pygyn, and (b) Southouse Grange, then or late in the tenure of John Wheteley, ---- all late of the monastery of Dale, at yearly rents of (a) 4£. and (b) 5£. 6s. 8d.from the termination of a lease thereof inter alia by indenture of the said Court 5 July, 31 Hen. VIII, to Francis Pole for 21 years from Michaelmas then next.

1568, 25 February. Lease for 21 years to Thomas Bellyngham of ---- a messuage in Okebrooke, co. Derby late of the monastery of Dale; ---- from the termination of a lease thereof by patent 10 April 1 & 2 Philip & Mary to John Conyers for 21 years from Lady Day then last; yearly rent 20s. For his service in Ireland.

1572, 6 May. Lease for 21 years to Francis Graye of mills in Elvaston co. Derby called Burgh Milnes, a fishery of the water of Darwent alias Dervent & two 'lez' abbutting on the mill, once of the Monastery of Dale co. Derby; with reservations; from the termination of a lease by patent, 3 July 3 Elizabeth to John Dawson of the same by the name of Burgh Milles in Elvaston, a fishery of the water of Darwent & two 'lez buttes' on the mills, for 21 years from Lady Day then last at a yearly rent of £7; same rent. ----

1576, 15 December. Grant in fee simple to Edward Earl of Lincoln K.G. and Christopher Gough of West Horseley, co. Surrey, of the following

---- lands in Okebroke co. Derby once of the monastery of Dale, co. Derby ---- In consideration of the surrender of lands ---- also for the said Earl's service; and at his suit.

1578, 9 June. Pardon of Alienation. Richard James in Hilary Term, 14 Elizabeth, by fine in the Common Pleas acquired from Edward Wyndesor, Knight, lord Wyndesor, and Catherine his wyfe, land in Ockbrocke, Co. Derby. For £5. 2s.

1578, 20 December. Licence for Richard Jamys and William Columbell to alienate lands in the lordship of Ockbrook, Derbyshire. To Thomas Battell. For 1s. 8d.
Enclosed pasture with appurtenances called Shevington's Close, lying in Bardolphe Wood alias Bardell's Wood. Containing by estimation eight acres. To be held in capite by Thomas Battel his heirs and assigns.

1578, 20 December. Licence for Richard Jamys and William Columbell to alienate lands in the lordship of Ockbrook, Derbyshire, to William Windley. For 2s.10d.
Two pastures Overwood. Enclosed pasture called Wyndley Lyttel Close containing eight acres in Bardolphe Wood alias Bardell Wood. To be held in capite.

1578, 20 December. 1578. Licence for the same to alienate other lands in the lordship of Ockbrook, Derbyshire, to Thomas Fowke. For 2s. 8d.
Two pastures called William Fowkes Close. Eight acres in Bardophe Wood alias Bardell Wood. To be held in capite.

1578, 20 December. Licence for Richard Jamys and William Columbell to alienate lands in the lordship of Ockbrook, Derbyshire, to Richard Sanderson. For 4s.5½d.
Pastures with appurtenances called Sanderson Wood lying in Bardolphe Wood alias Bardell Wood. Twelve acres held in capite.

1580, 3 February. Pardon of alienation. Edward Wyndesor, knight, Lord Windsor, and Katherine his wife, by fine, Hilary Term 14 Eliz., granted Richard Harpur, lately justice of Common Pleas, and his heirs and Jane his wife. For 6s. 8d.
Woods with appurtenances in Ockbrook, Forty-five acres of land with tenements to be held in capite.

[The following item comes not from the Calendar of Patent Rolls but from a translation in the Additional Manuscripts in the British Library. Add Mss 6698]

'1 Sepris 1583. 25 Elizabeth. Frederick, Lord Windsore, obtained Licence to alienate the Manor of Okebroke cu ptin [with appurtenances] & 12 messuages, 2 cottages, 12 gardens, 12 Orchards,

400 Acres of land, 60 of meadow, 160 of pasture, 6 acres of wood, 100 Acres of Furze and Heath & 10 shillings rent in Elvaston & Okebroke in County Derby which were held of the Queen, in capito, to John Piggen, Thomas Battell, Thomas Fowke, William Columbell, Richard Saunderson, Thomas Adams, Edward Adams, Richard Cowper, William Windley the younger & William Hibbert alias Hubbard the elder And by Indenture bearing date of 7th. Septr. eodem anno He (in consideration of £350) conveyed to them the said John Piggen and the rest above named, Husbandmen, all the said premises & warrants the same against his Father, Mother, Grandfather and Great Grandfather; and mentions that the 10 shillings Rent is issuing and payable out of certain Lands and Tenements in Okebroke aforesaid now or late inheritance of Walter Powtrell Esquire.'

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Notes

1) Concealed land- 'land privily held of the monarch without proper title.'
2) Housebote- the right to timber for house building and repairs.

SOURCES OF PATENT ROLLS

The British Library. Department of Manuscripts
Additional Manuscripts: 6698 Derbyshire Collections.
6. Historical Account of the Parish of Ockbrook, transcribed from the collection of John Reynolds of Plaistow Green. Page 144. Summary of licence to alienate. (folio 72d)

Public Record Office
Chancery records: Patent Rolls C66/1175 (1578)

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vol. XV. 1540. (1897)
vol. XIX. 1544. (1903)

Calendar of Patent Rolls Preserved at the Public Record Office.
Philip and Mary. H.M.S.O.
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vol. III. 1555-1557. (1938)

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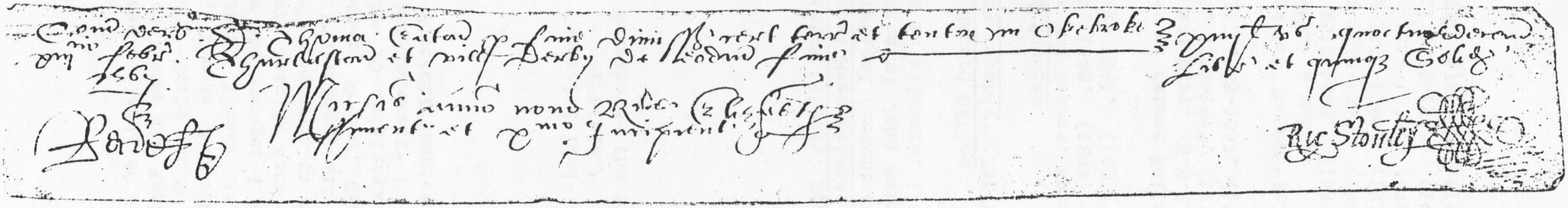
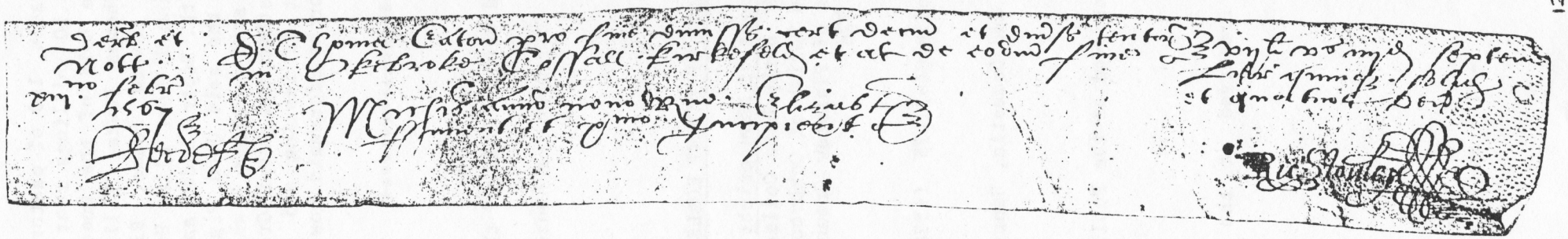
Elizabeth. H.M.S.O.
vol. I 1558-1560. (1939)
vol. II 1560-1563. (1948)
vol. IV 1566-1569. (1948)
vol. V 1569-1572. (1966)
vol. VII 1575-1578. (1982)
vol. VIII 1578-1580. (1986)





Two Exchequer Receipts of Thomas Eaton

The first is dated 8 February, 9 Elizabeth, 1567, for lands and tenements in Okebroke, Thurlaston and Derby, county of Derby. £14 5s.

The second, dated 13 February, 9 Elizabeth, 1567, for tenements in Okebroke, Cossall, and Kirkfield, counties of Nottingham and Derby. £12 5s. 4d.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INQUISITIONS POST MORTEM

On the death of a tenant in chief of the crown an enquiry was held into his possessions, his rents and services and into the succession. This was known as an Inquisition Post Mortem. A writ from Chancery ordered the sheriff to summon a jury under the 'escheator' of the county. It was the duty of the escheator to preside at the inquisition (inquiry) which had to ascertain the heir. The name escheator came from the fact that he was the official appointed to collect revenues from 'escheats', which were the properties which reverted to the crown when the possessor died without an heir or where the heir was a minor.

The jury of local men, or in some cases just a representative of the family, provided information for the escheator on :-

the name of the tenant,
date of death,
the lands held and their value,
the rents and/or services due,
the name and age of the heir.

Inquisitions Post Mortem were held not only for the rich but also for those who possessed small amounts of land. The value of the inheritance was usually understated. The heir could inherit the property on payment of a 'relief' or entry fee, the legal conveyance to him being called 'livery of seisin'.

Inquisitions which took place after 1583 have been included because these were for men who held land in the 1580s. Only the basic facts are listed here; full translations from the Latin are not given.

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Notes

1) Messuage,- a dwelling house with its garden(croft), outbuildings and yard or the land which these occupied.

2) 'Land' was the term used for the cultivated strips in the open fields, i.e. arable land. Meadow land and pasture were listed separately.

3) Common of pasture was the right to pasture animals on the common land. The amount of pasturage which an individual could claim was usually in proportion to the amount of arable land he was entitled to. The word appurtenances usually referred to this right.

4) A bovate was, theoretically, the area which ox could plough in one year. This varied with the type of soil and type of plough but some authorities think it could have been up to 32 acres.

5) An acre originally was not a standard measure, but merely an area of land. Later the word was applied to land cleared for agriculture and it came to mean a strip in the open field. Although standardised in the reign of Edward I as 4840 square yards it remained a variable measure in some areas for a few hundred years.

6) Enclosed land was not necessarily permanently enclosed by hedge or fence. Strips in the open fields were sometimes enclosed for a season after harvest for folding the animals.

SOME INQUISITIONS POST MORTEM

1544. Joseph Powtrell. Died 7 November 1543. Thomas, his son and heir, was 37 years old. His land was in several villages including Breaston, Spondon and Draycott. His property in Ockbrook consisted of one messuage and three cottages, four bovates of land and meadow with appurtenances. He was a tenant of Lord Windsor. Annual value of his Ockbrook land 11 shillings.

9 September 1557. Thomas Powtrell. Died 12 August 1557. His land was in several villages including Breaston, Spondon, Draycott and Risley. His property in Ockbrook consisted of one messuage, land and a tenement with appurtenances. He held the land of Lord Windsor as of his manor of Ockbrook. Annual value of Ockbrook land 11 shillings.

20 September 1577. Richard Harper, formerly a Justice of the Queen's Bench. Died 29 January, 19 Elizabeth (1577). John, his son and heir, was 30 years old. He held land in many parts of Derbyshire. In Ockbrook he held land and tenements with appurtenances in the manor of Ockbrook. [Many gaps in the manuscript]

26 August 1591. William Columbell of Ockbrook, yeoman. Inquisition held before Thomas Symcock the Queen's escheator and a jury of fifteen men. They were:-

Johis Meynel de Willington, gent.
Johis Rolson de Etwal
Willi Ward de Steinson
Johis Orme de Burnaston
Gregorii Gregson de Thurvaston
Rici Smyth de Quarne
Rici Stone de Steinson
Willi Meryman de Thurvaston
Willi Fisher de Normanton
Thome Botham de Mickleover
Johis Porton de eodem
Johis Beare de Burnaston
Edmundi Pinel de Mackworth
Radi Knivton de Steynson
Thomi Ambrose de Mackworth

William Columbell died 17 August 1591. John, his son and heir, was 29 years old. In Ockbrook he held one messuage with appurtenances, 36 acres of land, 17 acres of meadow, 15 acres of pasture and common of pasture for 7 cattle. He was also entitled to receive 12 pence in rent. In Elvaston he held the right to fish in the Derwent. All of this he held of the queen in capite by knight's service. The value was 46 shillings and 8 pence. He also held 2 acres of pasture in Spondon from John Stanhope, as of his manor of Elvaston; annual value 6s. 8d.

21 December 1590. Richard James of Ockbrook. Died 4 October 22 Elizabeth (1580). Edward, his son and heir, was 22 years old. In Ockbrook he held a messuage called Barlewood Lodge, an enclosed pasture called Willimott Wood containing 6 acres, an enclosed pasture called Foxholes containing 8 acres, an enclosed pasture called the Lound containing 7 acres, an enclosed pasture called the Meadow Close containing 3 acres. There were 10 acres of pasture with Barlewood

Lodge. The lands were held of the Queen in capite by knight's service.
The said Edward James held a third part of the premises and he died on the 25 April 27 Elizabeth (1585) and Richard was his son and heir and was aged 7 years. The property was as above, annual value 43 shillings and 4 pence.

19 January 1593. John Piggin of Ockbrook, yeoman. Inquisition held before Thomas Symcock, the Queen's escheator. The jury consisted of nineteen men:-

Thomas Hunt of Aston, gent.
George Cockeyne of Chaddesden, gent.
Thomas Bentley
William Smith
William Potter
Francis Meynell
William Fowler
Richard Whitehed
William Meryman
Thomas Baker
John Gregson
Edmund Parker
William Burton
Thomas Fowke
William Robinson
John Walker
John Wright
Henry Lockoe
William Haden

John Piggin died 1 September, 33 Elizabeth (1591). Robert was his son and heir and was 26 years old. In Ockbrook John held one messuage, one cottage, an orchard, 50 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 15 acres of pasture and common of pasture for 11 cattle. He received 12d. rent. He held his property of the Queen in capite by knight's service. Annual value £3.

'By an Inquisition taken at Derby the 19th. day of January 1593, 36 Eliz., before Thomas Symcock Esq. Deputy Escheator of Derbyshire it was found that John Columbell on ye 10th. of September, 25 Eliz. 1583, died seised of one messuage cum ptint (with appurtenances) in Okebroke & 36 Acres of Land, 6 Acres of Meadow, 15 Acres of pasture, 12 pence rent and common of pasture for 7 Cattle (pro septem averiis) in Okebroke, Spondon and Elvaston with a fishery (cum piscacione) in the River Darwent within the aforesaid parish of Elvaston all which said premises except two Acres of meadow in Spondon were held of the Queen, in capite, by Knight's service, but by what part of a Knight's fee the Jury knew not, and were worth by the year 46 shillings and 8d. and the foresaid 2 Acres of Meadow in Spondon were held of John Stanhope Esq. as of his manor of Elvaston but by what service, it was not known and they were worth by the year 6 shillings and 8d. and that Christopher Columbell was his brother and heir, and then 27 years old & upwards. And 5th. Junii 36 Eliz. 1594 the said Christopher Columbell had livery thereof.'

3 September 1597. Humfrey Mosley of Ockbrook. Died 19 July 1597. Richard was his son and heir and was 30 years old. In Ockbrook he held one messuage with appurtenances, a garden, an orchard, 24 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 8 acres of pasture and common of pasture for 4 cattle. He received 6d. rent. He held his property of the Queen in capite by knight's service. Annual value 20s.

25 May 1597. William Adams of Ockbrook, husbandman. Died March 1597. Elizabeth and Anne were his daughters and co-heirs; Elizabeth was 2 years and 5 months and Anne was 3 months. In Ockbrook he held one messuage with appurtenances and a garden, 16 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, 4 acres of pasture and common of pasture for 5 cattle. He held these of the Queen in capite by knight's service. Annual value 13s. 4d.

27 May 1602. Thomas Battle of Ockbrook. Died 7 May 1600 and William was his son and heir and was aged 11 years. He held a messuage with appurtenances, 36 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 7 acres of pasture, a tenth part of the waste land, a tenth part of the fishery in the Manor and the waters of Ockbrook formerly a portion of the Duke of Windsor. Annual value 35 shillings 8d.
Brodolsewood alias Bardlewood, land called Shevington Close and a piece of land containing in total 7 acres, value 5 shillings.
All of which premisses are held of the Queen in capite for one tenth part only of a knight's service.

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SOURCES OF INQUISITIONS POST MORTEM

The British Library. Department of Manuscripts:-

Additional Manuscripts: 6698 Derbyshire Collections.
6. Historical Account of the Parish of Ockbrook, transcribed from the collection of John Reynolds of Plaistow Green. Page 145.
Inquisition Post Mortem. (folio 73-4) This is the source of the I P M of John Collumbell quoted on page 14..

Additional Manuscripts: 6710 A Folio volume entitled "Derbyshire Collections" containing abstracts of inquisitions post mortem for that county from 2 Henry VII to 44 Elizabeth inclusive.
Those quoted here are from pages of the manuscript numbered between 115 and 366.

INTRODUCTION TO PROBATE RECORDS

Probate is the official proving of a will; the word is also used for the certified copy of the will with its certificate. Wills were proved in the ecclesiastical probate court which for Ockbrook was that of the diocese of Lichfield. For this reason the copies of the wills are now preserved at the Staffordshire Joint Record Office which holds the diocesan records.

A will is strictly a document which disposes of real estate. i.e. the land and buildings and all immovable property. A testament is the document which disposes of the personal belongings. In practice the two aspects are usually found in one document, but in the sixteenth century real estate (copyhold and leasehold land) was rarely mentioned in the wills since these descended according to the manorial customs or according to common law. However, Richard Adam (1534) includes in his bequests the lease of his house 'untyll syche tyme as my sayd terme of xx yeres shalbe expyryd and endyd'. Thomas Adam (1564) does the same, expressing the hope that his landlady the Queen will allow his wife to stay. Oliver Cowper (1565) leaves 'the good will' of his house to his son. Richard James (1575) leaves to his younger son the 'landes tenementes and heredytamentes with thappurtenances set lying and being in Ocbroke aforesaid which I latlie bought of the late lord Windsor'.

The testator named his executors who were to carry out the wishes expressed in his will. One of the duties of the executors was to have an inventory made of all the possessions of the deceased. Inventories listed and valued all the movable and immovable property, chattels, goods, leases for years (but not real estate), farm stock, crops growing and cut, cut timber (but not growing trees), loose money, rents and debts due (but not those owed). The values put on these in the inventory were often unduly low.

It had once been laid down by the church that a man's goods at death should be divided into three parts, one of which was for the widow, one for the children and one for the testator to pay his debts and to cover the cost of his funeral. By Elizabeth's time this was no longer a legal necessity but it was still a common practice as can be seen in the wills quoted.

The wills also reflect some changes of the century. The upheavals in organised religion can be seen in the contrast between the early wills with their 'I bequeathe my sowle to god almyghty and to hys blessed mother saynt Mary and to all the holy company of hevyn' and the later wills with 'I comend my soulle unto almyghty god my creator and maker and unto Jesus Chryst my redeemer and savyoure by whose death and presyus blod shydyng I trust to have remyssyon of my synes'. A more practical change can be seen in the decline in the importance of oxen and the introduction of horses for farm work. The crops and the farm equipment mentioned shed light on contemporary agriculture. Animals were frequently bequeathed to children and grandchildren. The ewe was given with its lamb as a guarantee that the recipient was not inheriting a barren ewe. Timber was an essential material for building, transport and tools so felled trees and wood ware are found in both wills and inventories. Oliver Cowper

(1565) had cut timber in Shevington's Close and Sanderson Close, lands which were later to be named in the Patent Rolls. (page 10)

The witnesses to wills and the appraisers of the goods for inventories are mostly local men. The same names occur frequently; they are the names of those who were prosperous enough to be leasing land. A number of wills (not quoted here) give evidence of inter-marriage between these families. The debts listed on many of the wills indicate considerable business between the farmers as they often represent payment for goods supplied. Their moderate wealth came from their farming except in the case of Richard James who seems to have had a flourishing weaving shop.

The relative prosperity of the testators can be judged from the wills and inventories. With the greater security of tenure there was more building. Existing houses, which up to now had often been a simple rectangle with a partition wall separating the animals from the family room, were enlarged. The single large room or hall came to be divided into parlours which were sleeping quarters as well as living rooms. A new storey made above the hall provided chambers, usually used for storage, work or servants' rooms. Some of the later inventories list the rooms with the contents of each and thereby indicate not only the size of the houses but also the degree of comfort within them.

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SOURCES OF WILLS AND INVENTORIES

All the wills quoted and referred to are in the Staffordshire Joint Record Office at Lichfield. The dates given in the paragraphs above and in the headings to the wills which follow are the dates of the writing of the will. In the Record Office at Lichfield the wills are classified by the date of the proving of the wills. It is these dates of proving which are listed here for reference.

Richard Adam 13 April 1534
John Adam 15 September 1550
Thomas Addams 18 September 1564
Oliver Cowper 22 September 1565
Emmott Hewyt 22 December 1567
Richard James 18 April 1581

Wills of Ockbrook people from this period at the Staffordshire Joint Record Office which are not quoted here:-
Elizabeth Adam 18 September 1564
James Cotrell 14 April 1561
John Fowke 18 February 1540/1
Margaret Fowke 15 September 1542
Wiiliam Fowke 10 July 1581
William Knight 19 May 1548
John Loccalle 29 April 1563
Richard Greene 18 June 1544
John Outram 14 April 1550
Thomas Wood 27 April 1568
Alice Wood 19 September 1568

WILL OF RICHARD ADAM, 1534.

In the name of God amen the ix day of January in the yere of our Lorde God MDXXXIV I Rycharde Adam of Ockbrocke in the countye of Darby beyng in gud & perfett rimembrance make thys my laste wyll and testament in maner and forme folowyng Fyrste I bequethe my sowle to god almyghty and to hys blessed mother Saynt Mary and to all the holy company of hevyn and my body to be buryed in the chawncell of Ockbrocke aforesayd and for that entent I bequethe to the parson of the sayd churche of Ockbrocke iiis. iiiid. Also I bequethe in the name of my mortuarye xs. Also I bequethe to Margarett Wyllemott my doghters doghter xxxiiis. iiiid. Also I bequethe to John Adam my son 1 payr of whelys iron bounden whyche be the worse payr of ii Also I wyll that the same John shall have vis. viiid. for the use and behove of hys chyldern to delyver and gyffe unto them when they shall come to lawfull age and dyscrecon and in the meantyme to put the sayd vis. viiid. to the mooste advantage and profett that he can for hys sayd chyldern Also I wyll that Thomas Adam my son shall have other vis. viiid. for his chyldern to the same entent & use Also I wyll that Margarett my doghter shall have other vis. viiid. for hyr chyldern and for the same entent & use Also I bequethe to Robarte Adam son to Thomas Adam 1 heyfer Also I bequethe xs. to some honest & well dysposyd prest for to sey a trentall of masses in the sayd churche of Ockbrocke for my soule & all Crysten sowlys Also I bequethe to the churche of Ockebrocke iis. and that to be made of some thyng that ys necessary at the dyscrecon of my executors & overseers that I may be prayed for Also I wyll that all my bequests dettes funerall expensys & charges at & abowte my buryall shalbe susteynyd & borne of all my hole goodes & cattalles Also I wyll that An my wyffe shall have the thryd parte of all my goodys yf she lyve after my dysceas or ells my chyldern unmaryed and those that shall have mooste nede of helpe to have that parte Also I wyll that my sayd chyldern unmaryed whyche be Wylliam Rychard & Johane shall have another thyrd parte of my goodes equaly to be devydyd among them for theyr chyldrens partes Also I gyve & bequethe all the resydew of my goodys that be not bequethyd to

Richard Adam (cont.)

Rychard my son & to Johan my doghter equaly to be devydyd betwen them at & by the dyscrecon of my executors and Also where as I have taken to ferme of Sir John Dudley knyght a howse in Ockbrocke with thappurtenances whyche now I dwell in And occupye for xx yerys terme to me and to my assygnes & have payd for my fyne or income for the same xls. now I wyll that Rychard Adam my son shall immedyatly after my dysceas farme & occupye the sayd ferme & to have intreste & ryght of the same ferme untyll syche tyme as my sayd terme of xx yeres shalbe expyryd & endyd & that he shall take to hym & my wyffe and be gud son to hir And to suffer hir & Wylliam my son & Johan my doghter to be in the same howse and occupye with hym durynge the lyffe of my said wyffe yf they can well agree all together so that Wylliam shalbe no lenger with them after he be maryed Also I constytute and ordeyn Thomas Adam my son & Rychard Lawton my true & lawfull executors of thys my laste wyll & testament And my Ryght Wyrshypfull Lorde Abbott of Dale and my mester Sir Henry Sacheverell knyght to be supervysors and overseers of them and to se that my laste wyll may be trulye executyd and performyd these beryng wittenes John Fowke of Ockbrocke & John Pygen with other

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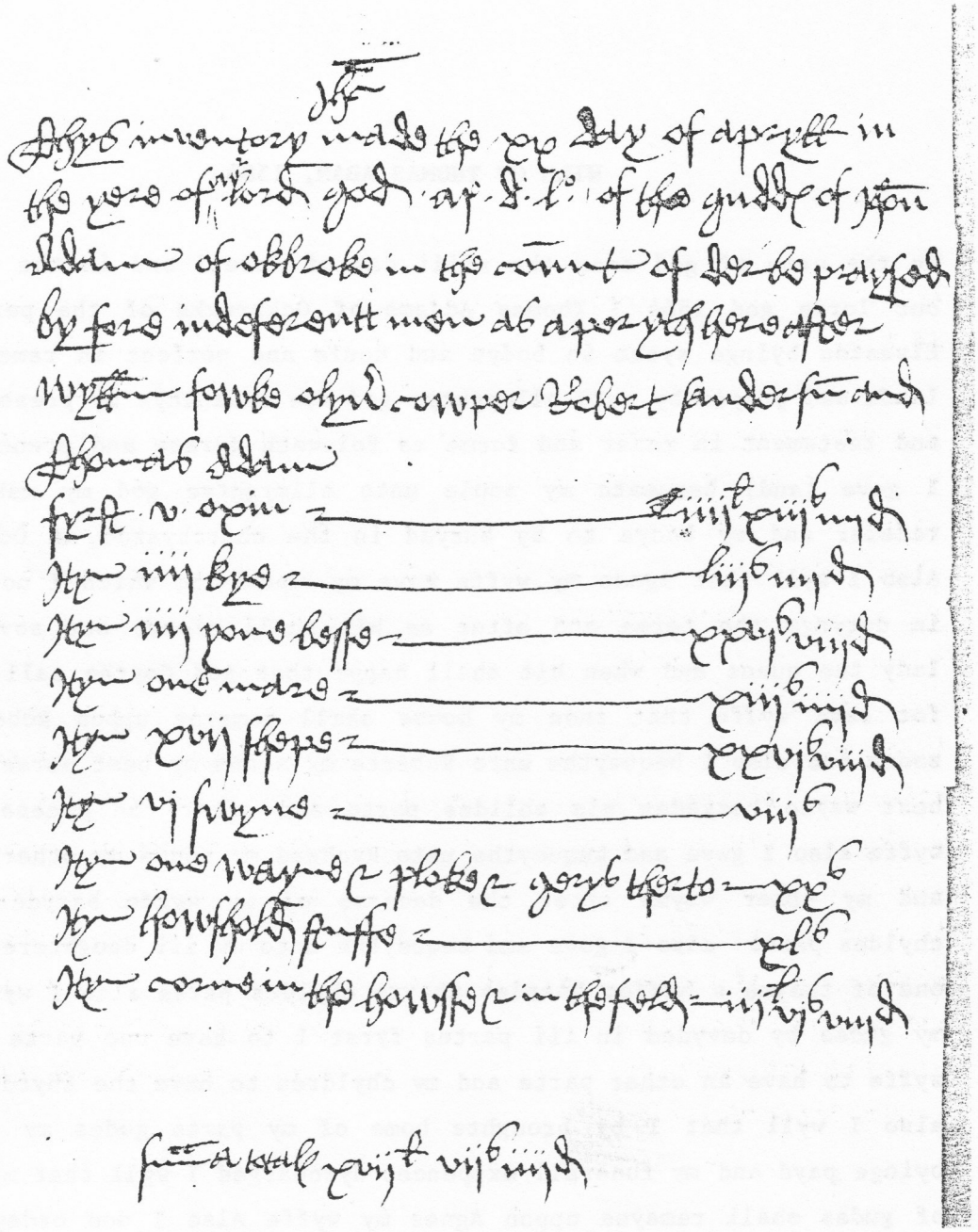

INVENTORY FOR JOHN ADAM, 1550.

Thys Inventory made the xx day of Apryll in the yere of our lord god MDL of the guddes of Jhon Adam of Okbroke in the count of Derbe praysed by fore indeferentt men as aperyth hereafter Wyllm Fowke, Olyver Cowper, Robert Sanderson and Thomas Adam

First v oxin
Itym iiii kye [kine]
Itym iiii yone besse [young beasts]
Itym one mare
Itym xvii shepe
Itym vi swyne
Itym one wayne & ploke & geryes therto
Itym howshold stuffe
Itym corne in the howsse & in the feld

Suma totale xvii£. viis. iiiid.

WILL OF THOMAS ADAM, 1564

In the name of god amen the xiiii day of Aprell and in the yere of our lorde god 1564 I Thomas Addams of Ockbrucke of the perish of Elvaston byinge sycke in bodye and houle and perfect in remembrance laude and prayse by unto allmyghtye god doe make thys my present wyll and testament in maner and forme as foloweth fyrste and prencypallye I geve [and] bequeath my soule unto allmyghtye god my maker and redemer and my bodye to by buryed in the churchyarde of Ockbrucke Also I wyll that Agnes my wyffe have my house the which I now dwell in durynge the terme and after as hit shall please our sovereygne lady the quene and when hit shall happe that god doythe call for my for sayd wyffe that then my house shall remayne uppon Roberte my sonne and also I bequeythe unto Roberte my sonne my best horse and my best wayne besyedes his childes parte and after the decese of my wyffe also I geve and bequeythe unto Rychard my sonne my other hourse and my other wayne after the decesse of my wyffe besydes [his] chyldes parte also I geve and bequeythe unto my iii daughteres every one of theyme a heffer besydes theyre chyldes parte also I wyll that my gudes by devyded in iii partes fyrst I to have one parte and my wyffe to have an other parte and my chyldren to have the thyrde parte also I wyll that I by broughte home of my parte gudes my legacys byinge payd and my funerall exppences dyscharged I wyll that my parte of gudes shall remayne uppon Agnes my wyffe Also I doe ordeyne and make Agnes my wyffe and Roberte my sonne my leefull executoures and John Pyggin and Edwarde Hybberd my oversyeres to see that this my last wyll and testamente be lawfully executed folowed and performed These byinge wittness Richard Clowes Thomas Addams junior Thomas Battayll with others

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IVENTORY FOR THOMAS ADAM, 1564

an Inventare of the gudes & cattelles of Thomas Addams of Okebruoke latelye decessed praisyd by Thomas Eton William Hosborne John Dawson & Olyver Cowper ye year of or lorde god 1564 ye xvii daye of September

Inprimis iiii oxen xls. an ox ye price		viii £
Itm vi kye xviiis. a cowe ye price	v £	viii s.
Itm iiii waynynge calves ye price	xiii s.	iiii d.
Itm vi yearynge calves ye price		xli s.
Itm xvi sheyppe ye price	xxvi s.	viii d.
Itm swyne xi ye price		xxii s.
Itm howrsses & mares iiii ye price	liii s.	iiii d.
Itm pullen gyese and hennes x ye price	iii s.	iiii d.
Itm waynes plowes harrowes yoykes tyemes & other Implowmentes ye price		iiii £
Itm whyte corne ye price		v £
Itm peyse ye price		iiii £
Itm yn puter and brasse ye price		xv s.
Itm in beddynge coverletes sheytes matteres ye price		xxx s.
Itm bedsydes coyfers boardes and forme ye price		v s.
Itm In Ireron wayre about ye fyre ye price	iii s.	iiii d.

Sum totalle xxxviii £ v s.

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WILL OF OLIVER COWPER, 1565

In the name of God amen the thryd daye of Julye and in the yere of our lord god 1565 I Olyver Cowper of Okbrocke and within the perishe of Elvaston bying syke in bodye and in wholle and perfect remembrance laude and prease by unto Allmyghtye god doe ordern and make thys my present wyll and testament in maner and forme folowyng fyrst I comende my soulle unto Allmyghty god my creatour and maker and unto Jesus Chryst my redemer and savyoure by whose deathe and presyus blod shydyng I trust to have remyssyon of my synes my bodye to by buryed in the churche yerde of Okbrocke Item I gyve and byquethe unto Rychard my sone the good wyll of my howse paying iii£ the which I have borowed towardes the taking of hyt Item I gyve unto Rychard my sone one cartt with plowys yowkes harowys horse gears and all kynd of housbandrye stouff ii asshes a trye in the more also the best trye he can chose imongest those xiiii that I have bought and other ii lying in Sheventones close and an other lying in Sheventon and Battylles close and other ii standyng in Sandersones close the ii best Item I wyll that he shall have a fetter bed a mattrys ii pyllos and iii pare of shyttes i of hempton and ii pare of herden ii coverlettes a blanked a gret old pane and a lesser pane a kettell a cupbord the whyche standyth in the spere also iiii cauples and v copples a cowe and a heffer also Rychard shall gyve unto John and Robert tymber to make ether of them a ploughe Item I gyve unto John my sone a potte and a pane a cart at Mertyllmas ... a mare and a foulle Item I gyve unto Robert my sone the ii least pottes and a pane a fyllye and Rychard to kype her untyll mehellmas ... Item unto Wylliam Fysher a yeryng cowe calfe Item I gyve unto Agnes my doughter the grest pane the best pott and a kettyll a new chaffyng dyshe a chaunler a salt the gret cowpe with leyd a cupbord standyng in the parlour Also I wyll that Elyzabethe my doughter shall have a pan the elder pott my coffer ii platters one standyng upon the cupbord another which we doe occupye Item unto Rychard my sone a pewter basyn the elder chaffyng dyshe the meat bord with coverynges and formes standynge a bout hyt

Oliver Cowper (cont.)

Item unto Agnes my doughter in law a presser Item unto John Halle an ewe and a lambe Also I wyll that the sydenes by made of the wholle bothe at mehellmas and at lenten and when hyt commyth of yerathe to by devyded in iiii partes and everye chyld to have hys part as hyt comyth to my funerall expences dystcharged and my legaces bying payd I wyll that the rest of my goodes shall remane upon my iii chylderne that ys to wytt John Robert and Agnes Item I do orden and make Rychard John and Robert my sones and Agnes my doughter my true and lawfull executoures to fullfyll thys my last wyll and testament Item I prepare and orden Mr. Ballye of Elvaston and Rychard Sanderson my oversyeres of thys my laste wyll and testament and to have ether of them iis. these bying wyttnes Rychard Clowys clarke Rychard Jamys Rychard Sanderson with otheres

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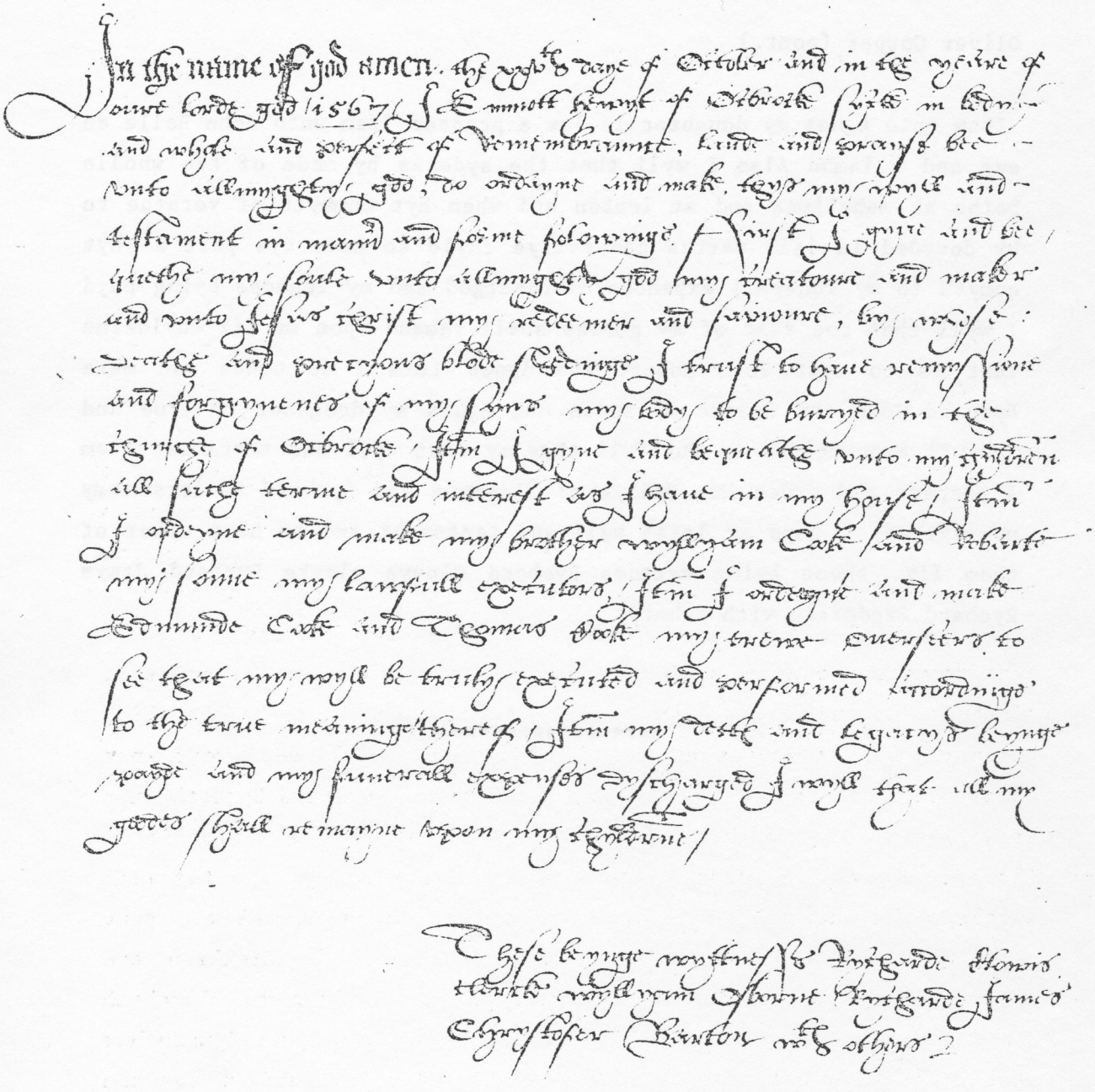

WILL OF EMOTT HEWYT, 1567

The will has all the typical features,- a declaration that the testator is of sound mind, a profession of faith, instructions for burial and a plea for redemption, followed by the disposal of the personal estate and provision for debts and funeral expenses. The chief relevance of this will lies in the reference to the tenancy of Emott's house,- 'Item I gyve and bequeath unto my children all suche terme and interest as I have in my house'

WILL OF RICHARD JAMES, 1575

In the name of God Amen the seconde daye of October in the yere of our lord god a thowsande fyve hundreth seventye and fyve and in the xvii th yere of the reigne of our soveraigne Ladye Elyzabeth by the grace of god Quene of Englande Frannce and Irelannde defender of the faythe etc I Rychard James of Ocbroke in the Countie of Derbye husbandman beinge of good and perfytte mynde and memorye do ordeyn publyshe and declare this to be my laste will and testamente in maner and forme folowinge And fyrste I bequethe my soule to almyghtye god my maker and my redemer humblye besechinge him to accepte it unto his mercye and my bodye to be buryed wher it shall please god to call me at the discretion of my executours Item I will geve and bequethe unto my yonger sone Mychaell James all and singuler my landes tenementes and heredytamentes with thappurtenances set lyinge and beinge in Ocbroke aforesaid which I latelie boughte of the late Lord Wyndesor To have and to holde all the said landes tenementes and heredytamentes unto my said sone Mychaell and to the heires males of his bodye lawfullie begotten Item I will geve and bequethe the third parte of all my goodes and catalles unto my welbeloved wyeff Anne James after others my legacies performed Item I geve and bequeth unto Katheryn James my doughter foure poundes to be delyvered unto hir at the age of twentie yeres yf she lyve so longe and yf she the said Katheryn fortune to dye before the said age then I will the same foure poundes to be equallye devyded emongest hir brethren and systers then lyvinge Item I will geve and bequeathe unto Elizabeth James an other of my doughters foure markes to be delyvered unto hir at hir age of twentye yeres if she so longe do live and yf she the said Elizabeth dye before the said age then I will the same foure markes to be equallye devyded emongest the rest of hir brethren and systers then lyvinge Item I geve will and bequeth unto Anne James and Isabell James other two of my doughters ether of them fourtie shillinges to be lykewyse delyvered unto them at ther severall ages of twentye yeres yf the so longe do lyve and yf it fortune them or ether of them to dye before the said age of twentie yeres then I will

Richard James (cont.)

ther parte or porcon of the said fourtie shillinges to be equally devyded emongest the rest of their brether and systers then lyvinge Item I will geve and bequethe unto my sone Edmund James sixe poundes thirtene shillinges and foure pence in full recompence of his childes parte yf he the said Edmunde will not be ordered ruled and councelled by my deare frendes Mychaell Willoughbye Edward Rossell and William Trowell and yf he the said Edmund wilbe ordered ruled and councelled by my said deare frendes then I will he have his parte and portyon of the rest of my goodes not bequethed as other of his systers and brether hath Item I will geve and bequeth the two partes of my goodes and catalles after my legasies performed emongest all my children equallie to be devyded emongest them Item I costytute ordeyn and make Anne my said wieff ande Mychaell my sonne my trewe and lawfull executours of this my laste will and testament And supvysors of the same I constytute orden and make the said Mychaell Willoughbye Edward Rossell and William Trowell and yf it shall fortune any varyance or stryffe to ryse betwene my said wieffe and my said children concerninge this my laste will and testament I will and my mynde is the same stryffe and varyance shalbe ordered ruled and judged by the said Mychaell Willoughbye Edward Rossell and William Trowell or the survyvour of them Item I will geve and bequethe to the said Mychaell twentye shillinges and to the said Edward Rossell and Willam Trowell ether of them syxe shillinges and eighte pence
Wittnes hereof William Trowell William Woodd ande Thomas Averey

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INVENTORY FOR RICHARD JAMES, 1581

The Inventory indentyd of all the goodes and cattelles moveable and unmoveable late the goodes and cattalles of Rychard Jamys late of Ocbrocke in the countye of Derbye deceassed made the xxix th daye of Marche in the xxiii th yere of the reign of our soveraigne Ladye Elizabethe by the grace of god Quene of England France and Ireland defender of the faythe etc and praysed William Osborne Anthony Lowe William Columbell and Rychard Saunderson as folowyth

Inprimis fourtene kyne at xxx s. a pece
Item fyve heffers and one bullocke
Item three twynters and a bull calffe
Item two geldinges
Item three mares
Item two coltes
Item three fyllyes
Item xxxvi ewes and lambes
Item twentye hogges
Item xiii whethers and a tupp
Item foure barren ewes
Item a sowe seven pygges one gilt and syxe sheyettes
Item iii iron bound weanes and one iron bound carte
Item one slead two great harrowes and a payre of smale harrowes
Item one hovell of pease
Item thre cart blades one old weane bodye & two sides for a slead
Item ashe wood for ploughe tymber and weanes
Item for hovelles pales keales and other old wood in the yard
Item yokes teames culteres shares and all other iron stuff belonging to the ploughe weane and carte
Item two hatchettes one bill a spade three wymbles and sheepe hocke
Item a crowe of iron & two iron wedges
Item a pyche p... a pyche brande a breyr sythe and other old iron
Item a hand mylne & horse gears

In the Hall

Inprimis thre spyttes two payre of cobberdes two land irons tonges fyer shovell & pott rackes
Item ix puter platters & three lesse dysshes
Item one great chargere
Item Eight porrengers & foure sawsers
Item old puter dysshes
Item syxe candelstickes thre saltes and two charvinge dysshes
Item one old cupperd
Item a shelfe iii chears ii tables with formes & tresles
Item a table clothe sevyn cusshons a bencher a lattys & a paynted clothe
Item foure sylver spoones

(cont.)

In the kytchen

Inprimis foure great panes & a ketle
Item thre litell ketles & ii skelletes
Item two littell panes & a ketle a warmynge pane & two skemers
Item foure pottes
Item one boultinge tubb
Item one saultinge tubb and two knedinge trowes
Item two cressetes two fryinge pannes two brand irons and a plat
Item ten kyttes and sevyn lumes

In the Chamber over the Parlour

Inprimis seveyn coverlettes
Item two mattresses a boulster and three pillowes
Item one bedsted & a trucle bed
Iten seveyn payre of harden sheetes
Item three table clothes
Item xxi ti slippinges of harden yarn
Item ten cheeses
Item thre coffers and one forme
Item two strike of otemele
Item sevyn yardes of hereclothe
Item ii hoockes and viii syckells
Item paynted clothes
Item thre lyttell wheeles
Item a steele cap and v bordes

In the parlour next the kytchin

Inprimis xxi payre of harden sheetes
Item foure payre of flaxen sheetes
Item thre payre of mydlinge sheetes
Item xi table napkins
Item three towels
Item syxe pillowberes
Item iii yardes of whit carsey
Item one matttres a boulster foure pillowes iii coverlettes iii blankettes
Item syxe yardes of new flaxened clothe
Item v yardes of midlinge clothe
Item two bedstedes and paynted clothes
Item v table napkins of mydlinge clothe and two table clothes
Item thre coffers
Item hys purse and apparell

In the Chamber over the hall

Inprimis one trusse bed
Item eight slippinges of flaxen yarne & iii slippinges of mydlinge yarne
Item flaxe and hempe
Item one coffer and a forme
Item one ston of woll
Item one payre of sheetes
Item three hetchelles
Item two bordes and a forme

(cont.)

In the Sh... Chamber

Inprimis two bedstedes
Item one mattres and a boulster
Item two payre of harden sheetes
Item foure coverlettes
Item thre window shettes
Item one quarter of wheat and blendcorne
Item two spynnynge wheelles
Iten foure bottells

In the Chamber next the Charge yard

Inprimis Eight quarters of malt
Item fyfteen sacks
Item vii skottelles iv wiskettes two maundes fyve syves one hopper one strike and a yocke
Item eighten serven bordes

In the Kyln House

Inprimis two quarters of ...
... and a mouldinge bord
Item one sere clothe

In the barne

Inprimis barley to threshe by estimacon ten quarters
Item one bord
Item two great corne raickes
Item one sythe & a cuttinge knyffe
Item thre pych forkes
Item one sett of fleakes
Item four lathers

Corne Sowen in the felde

Inprimis twentye acres of grownde sowen with pease and otes
Item eighten acres of grownde sowen with wheat rye and barley
Item for the lease of the howse for elevyn yeres yet to come
Item the ston trowes & a grindle ston
Item ten hennes and a coke
Item two geese and a gander
Item foure duckes and a dracke
Item for a lease of a close at Fynderne

In the littell parlour

Inprimis one mattres a payre of harden sheetes on blanket and thre coverlettes
Item one bedsted and a coffer
Item one churn chessattes boolles and pottes
Item v drinkinge pootes ii glasses & a can

****

CONVEYANCE: 1581

John Piggen leases part of his property to his son Robert Piggen.
10 November 23 Elizabeth.
[John Piggen died in 1591. I. P. M. on page 15.]

This indenture made the tenth day of November in the three & twentith yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God Queene of England Fraunce and Ireland defender of the fayth etc Betwine John Piggen of Okebrucke in the Countie of Derbie yoman of the one partie and Robert Piggen seconde sonne of the said John Piggen of the other partie **Witnesseth** that the said John Piggen for dyverse good causes and consideracons him thereunto especiallie moveinge **hathe** enfeoffed assigned alyenated and confirmed and by these presentes doth enfeoffe assign alyenate and confirme unto the said Robert Piggen and his heires all that messuage farme or tenemente with thappurtenances in Okebrucke aforesaid nowe in the tenure or occupacon of the said John Piggen or his assignes and all landes tenementes meadowes pastores closes comons easementes wayes proffitts comodities & hereditamentes whatsoever to the said messuage farme or tenement belonginge or in anie wyse apperteyninge or to or with the same usuallie demised occupied or enjoyed and all those forre landes situate lyinge or beinge in one of the feildes of Okebrucke aforesaid called Abbey Feilde and lately in the tenure or occupacon of one Jane Lowe wydow which the said John Piggen heretofore had conveyed unto him by waie of exchaunge or otherwise by or from one Richard Osburne of Okebrucke aforesaid And all that cotage with thappurtenances in Burrowsash in the countie of Derbie aforesaid nowe or late in the tenure or occupacon of one Robert Hetherley or his assignes together with all houses buyldinges landes meadowes pastures closes comons comodities profitts emolumentes ryalties liberties pryviledges and other heredytamentes whatsoever to the said messuage farme or tenemente cotage and other premisses belongeinge used occupied reputed or taken as part or parcell of the said menconed premisses and all other the landes tenementes and hereditamentes of the said John Piggen situate lyinge or beinge in Ockbrook or Burrowsash aforesaid **To have and to holde** the said

messuage cotage lands tenementes and hereditamentes and all other the premisses before in these presentes enfeoffed and assigned to the said Robert Piggen his heires and assignes for ever to the onelie uses intentes and purposes hereafter followinge (that is to saie) to the use and behoofe of the said John Piggen for and dureinge his naturall lyfe without impeachment of anie manner of wast And after the decease of the said John Piggen then to the proper use and behoofe of the said Robert Piggen his heires and assignes for ever **He the** said Robert Piggen his heires and assignes yealdinge and payinge yearlie parte of the said menconed premises unto the said John Piggen and the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten after the death of the said John Piggen fourtie shillinges of good and lawfull monie of England in the feast daies of Saint Michaell the arkeangel and thannunciacon of our Ladie for ever and equall porcons the first payment thereof to begine at whether at the said feast daies shall first happen next after the death of the said John Piggen **And** if it happen the said yearlie rent of fourtie shillinges or anie part or parcel therof to be behind and unpaid in part or in all after anie of the said feastes in which it ought to be paid at by the space of twentie daies beinge lawfullie asked that then and from thenceforth it shalbe lawfull to and for the heires male of the said John Piggen into the said messuage cotage and other the premisses to enter and distreyne and the distres ther so had and taken to lead dryve and cary awaie and the same to deteyne and keepe untill the said yearlie rent and tharrerages thereof yf anie be be fullie satisfied contented and payd **And** the said Robert Piggen doth covenant and graunt for himself his heires executors administrators and assignes to and with the said John Piggen his heirs and assignes by these presentes that he the said Robert Piggen his heires and assignes shall and will well and trulie content and paie unto the heires males of the bodie of the said John Piggen the said yearlie rent of fourtie shillinges at the daies and feastes before menconed accordinge to the true intent and meaneinge of these presents **And** the said John Piggen and his heires the said messuage cotage and all other the premisses with thappurtenences by these presentes before enfeoffed and assigned unto

the said Robert Piggen and his heires to the severall uses and behoofes aforesaid against him the said John Piggen his heires and assignes shall and will warrant and defend by these presentes **In Witness** whereof the parties abovesaid to these presente indentures interchangeably have sette their handes and seales the daie and yeare first above written

J P the mark of Jhon Pigin.

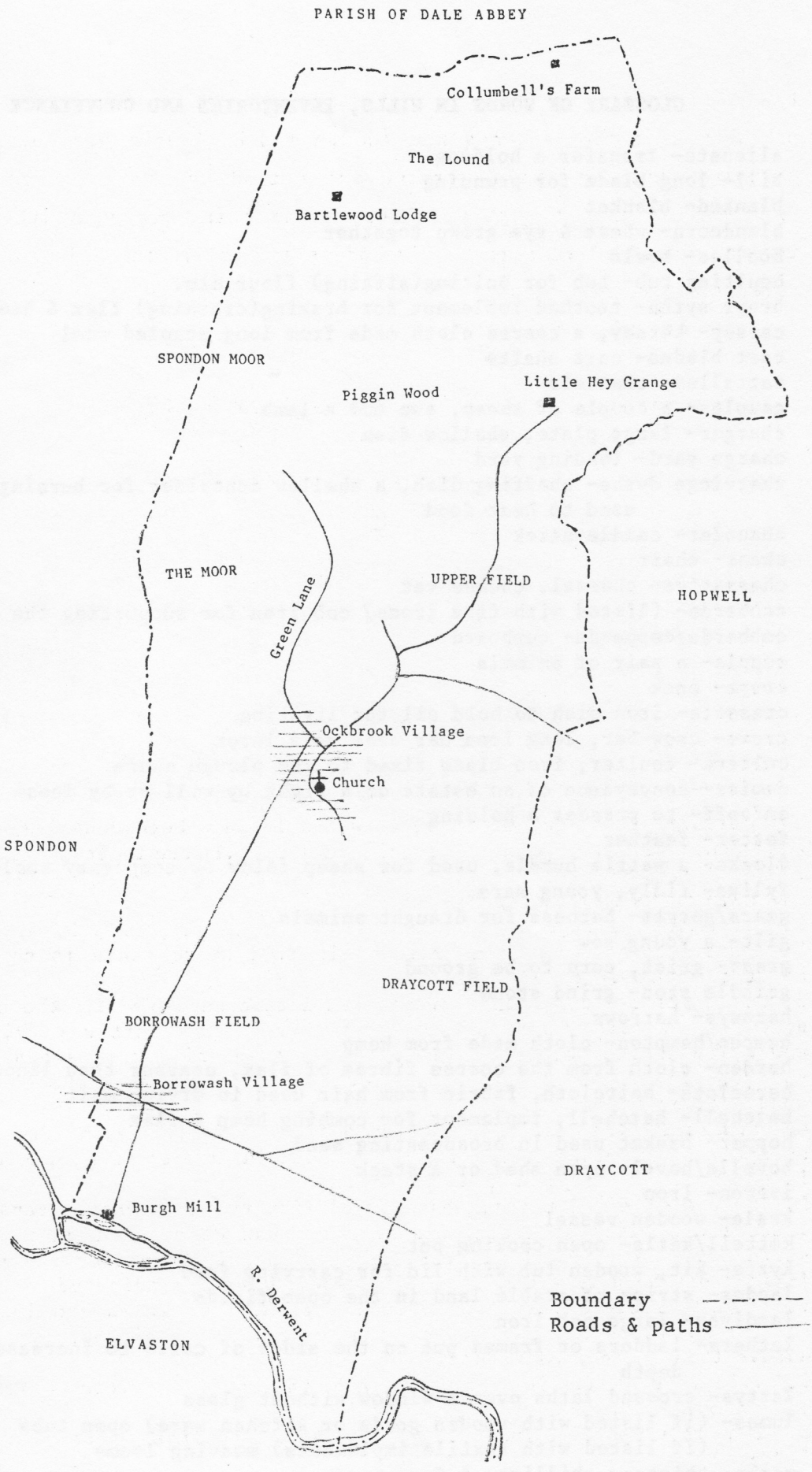
SOURCE: Derby Local Studies Library; Pares Collection 606.

****

A NOTE ON THE TRANSCRIPTS

The editing of the documents in this booklet has been done largely in accordance with the principles laid down by R.F.Hunnisett in 'Editing Public Records for Publication' (British Records Association 1977).
The main rules applied are :-

1. Original spellings have been retained. (But see points 3, 4, & 5.)
2. Abbreviations have been extended in full where there is no doubt about the word intended.
3. The letters u and v were often used interchangeably and the choice depended to some extent on the position of the letter within the word. The choice between u and v in the transcript has been made on the grounds of pronunciation, so for example, vpon is transcribed as upon, conuey as convey.
4. Similarly the scribes interchanged i and j. Again the transcriptions use them according to pronunciation so the enioye and iudgement become enjoy and judgement.
5. The use of c and t presents more difficulty, not least because the letters are often indistinguishable. The use of c has been retained where there is no doubt and the frequent use of '-con' for the modern '-tion' has been retained where no abbreviation is indicated.
6. Missing letters resulting from illegibilty or holes are inserted in square brackets only where the context, repetition, or names enable this to be done without any doubt.
7. Illegible words in the text are indicated by three dots ... regardless of the length of the portion.
8. The contemporary indiscriminate use of capitals has not been followed.
9. The editor's omissions are indicated by ---- .



OCKBROOK PARISH

Boundary as in 1773. Field names located by seventeenth century documents and the Enclosure Award of 1773.

GLOSSARY OF WORDS IN WILLS, INVENTORIES AND CONVEYANCE

alienate- transfer a holding
bill- long blade for prunuing
blanked- blanket
blendcorn- wheat & rye grown together
boolles- bowls
boulting tub- tub for bolting(sifting) flour etc.
breyr sythe- toothed implement for braking(crushing) flax & hemp
carsey- kersey, a coarse cloth made from long stapled wool
cart blades- cart shafts
cattalles- chattels
cauples- a couple of sheep, ewe and a lamb
charger- large plate, shallow dish
charge yard- loading yard
charvinge dyshe- chaffing dish, a shallow container for burning fuel used to heat food
chaunler- candle-stick
chear- chair
chessattes- chessel, cheese vat
cobberde- (listed with fire irons) cob iron for supporting the spit
cobberde/cupperde- cupboard
copple- a pair of animals
coupe- cask
cressete- iron dish to hold oil for lighting
crowe- crow-bar, long iron bar used as a lever
cultere- coulter, iron blade fixed to the plough share
demise- conveyance of an estate or a right by will or by lease
enfeoff- to possess a holding
fetter- feather
fleake- a wattle hurdle, used for sheep folds or temporary enclosures
fyllye- filly, young mare
gears/geryes- harness for draught animals
gilt- a young sow
grest- grist, corn to be ground
grindle ston- grind stone
harowys- harrows
hempen/hempton- cloth made from hemp
herden- cloth from the coarse fibres of flax, coarser than linen
herecloth- haircloth, fabric from hair used in drying malt
hetchell- hatchell, implement for combing hemp & flax
hopper- basket used in broadcasting seed
hovelle/hovel- open shed or a stack
ireron- iron
keale- wooden vessel
kettell/ketle- open cooking pot
kytte- kit, wooden tub with lid for carrying food
landes- strips of arable land in the open fields
landiron- large cob iron
lathers- ladders or frames put on the sides of carts to increase the depth
lattys- crossed laths over a window without glass
lumes- (if listed with wooden goods or kitchen ware) open tubs
(if listed with textile implements) weaving looms
marke- thirteen shillings & four pence

matteres/mattrys- mattress
maunde- wicker basket
meat bord- table
more- moor
mortuary- customary gift claimed by the incumbent of the parish on the estate of a parishioner after his death
mouldinge bord- board on which dough is kneaded
mydling cloth- medium grade cloth
mylne- mill
paynted clothe- cloth with painted picture for bed or wall hangings
peyse- peas
pillowbere- pillow case
ploke- plough
porrenger- small basin
presentes- the present documents
presser- a large cupboard
pullen- poultry
puter- pewter
ryalties- realties, real estate
saultinge tub- tub for salting meat
sawser- deep dish for sauce
sere cloth- worn or thin cloth
sheyette- a young pig
skellet- cooking pot
skirmer/skemer- cooking ladle or a skimmer
skottelles- basket for winnowing corn
slead- sledge
slippingse- skeins of flax & hemp
spere- screen between the door and the fire-place
strike- strick, a bundle of broken hemp used for heckling(combing) flax & hemp / a measure of grain by volume
teames/tyemes- harness chains for oxen or horses
tharrerages- the arrears
thryd- third
trentall- a set of thirty requiem masses
trowe- trough
trucle bed- low bed on small wheels, pushed under standing beds
trusse bed- travelling or portable bed
trye- tree
tupp- tup, ram
twynter- two-year old cattle
wayn/weane- wain, cart
waynynge calf- a calf which has been weaned
wether- castrated male sheep or a ram
whelys- wheels
whyte corne- wheat
window shettes- hanging cloths for windows or shutters or winnowing cloths
wiskette- straw basket
wymble- augur to bore in soft ground
yearynge/yeryng calf- one-year old calf
yerathe- ?
yoykes/yowkes/yockes- yoke for coupling oxen for draught work

[The Shorter Oxford Dictionary on Historical Principles. 2 vols. Clarenden Press Oxford. 1978]

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